United Nations S/2017/863

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 October 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 10 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my honour to refer to the workshop on arms trafficking that took place in Madrid on 9 and 10 May 2017. The National Police of Spain hosted the workshop with the participation of some members of the Panels of Experts on the Central African Republic, on South Sudan and on Yemen; and the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, as well as a representative of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

The organization of the workshop is a further demonstration of Spain's strong commitment to the work of the sanctions committees, especially through our active role during our membership as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2015-2016, during which Spain chaired the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), on sanctions related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and facilitated the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). In this regard, Spain considers that sanctions committees are key tools for promoting both accountability and conflict prevention.

The event held in Madrid was related to an arrest made in Spain in July 2016 and to various resolutions of the Security Council that call upon panels of experts to cooperate actively with other panels or groups established by the Council, as relevant to the implementation of their mandate, as well as the December 2006 report of the Security Council Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions (S/2006/997), which recommended, inter alia, the promotion of increased cooperation and interaction among the various expert groups to increase efficiency and decrease the duplication of effort.

The workshop was successful, allowing participants to share their experiences, lessons learned and other key information, not only in connection with the ongoing investigation, but also opening the door to future collaborations so as to improve efficiency in their respective fields of work.

Considering the positive results of the Madrid event, my Government is hopeful that the workshop will be considered as a reference and will encourage other Member States to follow this initiative. In that vein, similar workshops could certainly help to implement the recommendations set forth in November 2015 in the Compendium of the High-level Review of United Nations Sanctions (A/69/941-S/2015/432).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**

17-18187 (E) 191017

Please recycle